

My Neighborhood...



Bicycling Element

OUR MOBILITY

Bicycling Element

Introduction

Bicycling has become an alternative travel mode in the Valley, and it is a vital component of the effort to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and expand transportation options. The overall purpose of the Bicycling Element is to provide opportunities for those that elect to use a bicycle for recreation or transportation.

Current Situation

The City of Chandler adopted the “Chandler Bike Plan Update” in 1999 in order to provide a comprehensive plan for bicycle transportation and recreation. The Bike Plan identifies facilities that are necessary to create a Citywide bicycling system and link Chandler with Tempe, Mesa, Gilbert and Phoenix, and other communities throughout the valley. The Bicycle Facilities Element identifies the major issues that were established in the Bike Plan. Figure 7, Long-Range Plan for Bicycle Facilities, identifies existing and proposed bicycle paths.

The Chandler Bike Plan Update contains two components, a 5-Year Action Plan and a Long-Range Plan. The 5-Year Action Plan contains specific recommendations for bicycle facility construction and for planning, policy and program actions.

The Long-Range Plan identifies a variety of bicyclist destinations and recommends a three-tiered network of arterial street bike lanes and wide curb lanes, collector street bike lanes and off-road trails along canals and utility easements. Arterial street bike lanes or wide curb lanes are recommended for all major arterial streets. Collector street bike lanes are recommended for most collectors and/or major circulation routes in master planned communities. In addition to on-street facilities, the Long-Range Plan calls for linking the Paseo/Consolidated Canal trail to its continuation in the Town of Gilbert.

To connect its open space and recreation regionally, the City of Chandler participates in regional trails planning efforts such as the Regional Off-Street System Plan (ROSS) sponsored by the Maricopa Association of Governments. A major goal of this plan is to provide connectivity between origins and destinations by linking with existing transportation systems. This plan will provide for off-road trails along the major irrigation canal systems in Chandler, Tempe, Mesa, Phoenix, and Gilbert. The Chandler Paseo is a designated part of this regional system. This regional system of trails will provide opportunities for both recreation and transportation use of the bike as an alternative means of mobility.

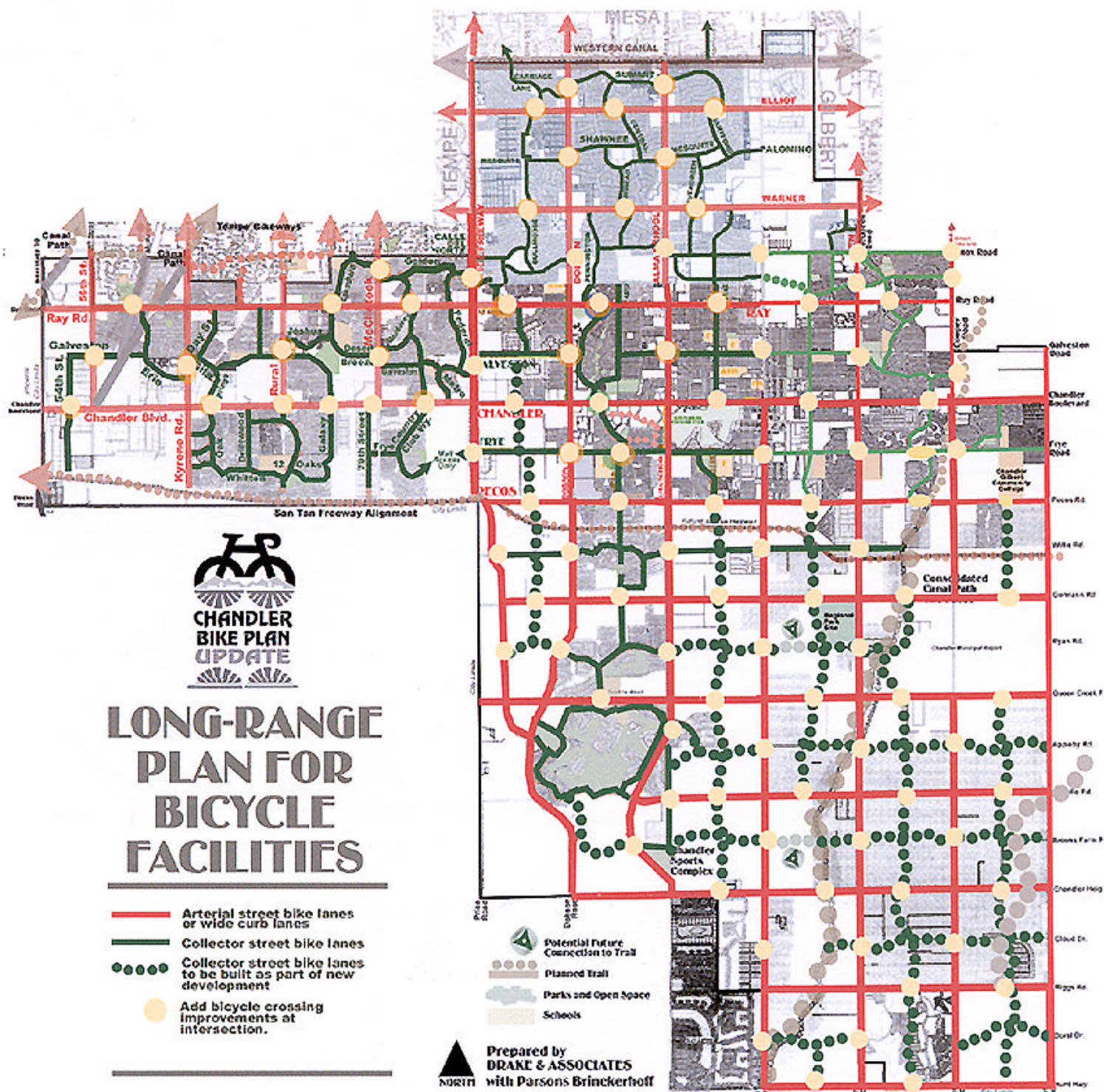
Future Trends

Chandler's population is growing. This expansion and the growth of new employment and commercial centers and the increasing popularity of the bicycle have generated a requirement for new guidelines for the use and development of bicycle facilities.

The Long-Range Plan for Chandler's bicycle facilities leads to a system that enables bicyclists of all ages and levels of proficiency to use bicycles for transportation and recreation, conveniently, comfortably and safely. The plan connects Chandler to neighboring cities and a regional system of bikeways and trails.

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Figure 7



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Planning Issues

In order to have a comprehensive bicycle infrastructure, there needs to be connectivity of bicycle links within the community as well as connections of bicycle links with adjacent communities. Further, there is a need to provide for varied cycling facilities that address both transportation and recreational demands. The following issues provide challenges for the future:

- Connectivity breaks still remain on the street and off-street bike lane or bike trail facilities in Chandler.
- As future development occurs, provide for connectivity between various land uses as well as connectivity of the infrastructure.
- Continue to evaluate its system using updated American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines.
- Maricopa County is preparing a regional bicycle plan. This plan is intended to improve connections with bikeways in neighboring communities and working for consistent design standards.

Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL: DEVELOP A CITY WIDE SYSTEM OF ON AND OFF-ROAD BICYCLE FACILITIES THAT CREATES MAXIMUM SAFETY, CONVENIENCE AND COMFORT FOR BICYCLISTS OF ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS.

OBJECTIVE: Include bicycle facility planning as part of all new development review.

Policy: Encourage projects that utilize planning and development review criteria facilitating access by bicycle to major destinations.

Policy: Review and update, where necessary, City policy and codes to encourage non-motorized transportation.

Policy: Work toward updated design standards, as necessary, to enhance safety, ease of orientation, and usefulness of Chandler's bikeway system.

Policy: Protect the City's investment in bicycle facilities through a maintenance program that addresses specific needs of bicyclists.

Policy: Provide a range of bicycle facilities to accommodate the needs of all ages, skill levels and trip purposes.

OUR MOBILITY

Bicycling Element

OBJECTIVE: To develop a continuous system of bicycle facilities between adjoining communities.

Policy: Evaluate the potential of off-road corridors for accommodation of bicycling, including railroad rights-of-way, utility easements, and canals.

Policy: Encourage development of opportunities for multi-modal transportation that includes bicycles.